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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNDP/EAID
SUBJ: 21ST UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

1. SUMMARY: UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMS FOR MAURITIUS, FIJI, NEPAL, SINGAPORE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TONGA, COSTA RICA AND GUATEMALA WERE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON JANUARY 27 BY THE RESPECTIVE REGIONAL BUREAU HEADS: ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA, MR. MICHEL DOO KINGUE; ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, MR. RAJENDRA COOMARASWAMY, AND ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR LATIN AMERICAN, MR. GABRIEL VALDEZ. THESE WERE THE SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAMS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES DURING THE PRESENT PROGRAMMING CYCLE. THREE GLOBAL PROJECTS: (1) "RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY PROTEIN MAIZE, PHASE III" (GLO/75/007); (2) "INVESTIGATION OF NITROGEN FIXATION BY FREE-LIVING BACTERIA IN ASSOCIATION WITH LOWLAND RICE" (GLO/75/008); AND (3) "SOUTHERN OCEAN FISHERIES SURVEY PROGRAM" (GLO/75/006) WERE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BY MR WILLIAM MASHLER, DIRECTOR, UNDP DIVISION OF INTERREGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROJECTS. NINE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE BRIEF DISCUSSIONS OF THESE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS. THE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WERE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION ON JANUARY
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27. THE PROJECTS WERE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL IN PLENARY

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SESSION ON JANUARY 27 AND THE COUNTRY PROJECTS WERE APPROVED
BY PLENARY SESSION JANUARY 28.

2. INITIATING THE DISCUSSION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM,
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR DOO KINGUE SUBMITTED THE COUNTRY
PROGRAM FOR MAURITIUS, REPORTING ON ITS SECTORAL EMPHASIS,
FINANCIAL STATUS, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS. ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR COOMARASWAMY SUBMITTED THE COUNTRY PROGRAMS
FOR FIJI, NEPAL, SINGAPORE, THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND TONGA.
HE SAID THAT THE PROGRAMS HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFORE THE
PRESENT UNDP FINANCIAL PROBLEMS HAD ARISEN, AND WERE THEREFORE
BEING PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED.
ANY SUBSEQUENT CHANGES WHICH MIGHT BE NEEDED DUE TO THE UNDP
FINANCIAL CRISIS WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF REVISIONS TO THESE
PROGRAMS. HE SUMMARIZED THE SECTORAL COMPOSITION OF THE
PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE IN MOST
OF THEM. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR VALDEZ SUBMITTED THE
PROGRAMS FOR COSTA RICA AND GUATEMALA, CITING THE CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE TWO PROGRAMS INCLUDING IMPROVED SECTORAL CONCENTRATION
AND A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SMALL SCALE PROJECTS IN THE
FORMER, AND THE EMPHASIS ON RURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ON THE LATTER.

3. MR. MASHLER INTRODUCED THE THREE GLOBAL PROJECTS FOR
GOVERNING COUNCIL APPROVAL, SUMMARIZING THE CHARACTERISTIC
AND IMPORTANCE OF EACH. THE PROJECT "RESEARCH AND TRAINING
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY PROTEINMAIZE (PHASE III)"
(GLO/75/007), IS DESIGNED TO ENABLE THE INTERNATIONAL MAIZE
AND WHEAT DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CIMMYT) TO CONTINUE AND
EXPAND ITS RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
AND CULTIVATION OF HIGH-YIELDING, HIGH PROTEIN MAIZE VARIETIES.
THE PROJECT FOR "INVESTIGATION OF NITROGEN FIXATION BY FREE-
LIVING BACTERIA IN ASSOCIATION WITH LOWLAND RICE"
(GLO/75/008), IS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE INTERNATIONAL RICE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE (IRRI) IN MANILA IN COLLABORATION WITH CORNELL
UNIVERSITY AND THE BOYCE THOMPSON INSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGICAL
STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE "SOUTHERN OCEAN FISHERIES
SURVEY PROGRAM" (GLO/75/006) IS RESPONSIVE TO THE 1974 WORLD
FOOD CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE UNDP INCREASE ITS
ASSISTANCE IN WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION, AND REPRESENTS A NEW
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AND IMPORTANT LINK IN THE GROWING NETWORK OF NATIONAL,
REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL FISHERIES PROJECTS ASSISTED BY
UNDP AROUND THE WORLD.

4. NINE DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THE BRIEF DISCUSSIONS
OF THESE EIGHT COUNTRY PROGRAMS AND THREE GLOBAL PROJECTS.
SWEDEN HAD SEVERAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE
PROJECTS, AND SAID THAT THESE ALREADY HAD BEEN SUBMITTED

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TO THE UNDP. THE UK ALSO SAID THAT ITS COMMENTS ON THESE PROJECTS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE UNDP. NORWAY WAS PARTICULARLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE SOUTHERN OCEANS FISHERIES PROJECT (GLO/75/006). ARGENTINA REQUESTED THAT THE UNDP MAINTAIN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SIGNATORY PARTIES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY DURING THE COURSE OF THIS PROJECT. THE US (MR. EVANS) NOTED THE ADHERENCE OF THE EIGHT COUNTRY PROGRAMS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, COMMENDED THE EMPHASIS ON KEY SECTORS AND ON TRAINING, NOTED THE COORDINATION CARRIEDOUT WITH OTHER DONORS CONCERNING THE PROGRAMS, AND URGED CONTINUING ATTENTION TO THE IMPACT OF UNDP PROGRAMS IN ALL SECTORS OF WOMEN BOTH AS PARTICIPANTS AND BENEFICIARIES. THE US ALSO STATED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE THREE GLOBAL PROJECTS. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS, AND PROPOSED THAT THE WORDING OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISION APPROVING THE COUNTRY PROGRAMS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT THE IPF'S FOR 1977-1981 WERE NOT YET APPROVED.

5. MR. MASHLER, RESPONDING BRIEFLY TO COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE PROJECTS SAID THAT THE SIGNATORIES OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY WOULD BE CONSULTED AT EACH STAGE OF THE SOUTHERN OCEANS FISHERIES PROJECT AND THAT THIS PROJECT WAS CONCERNED WITH PRELIMINARY SURVEYS, NOT WITH POSSIBLE FUTURE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION. HE ASSURED COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT THEIR COMMENTS ON ALL THREE PROJECTS WOULD BE DULY NOTED.

6. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON JANUARY 27 APPROVED THE THREE GLOBAL PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZED THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR "TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXECUTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THESE PROJECTS (IN THE CASE OF THE SOUTHERN OCEANS FISHERIES SURVEY PROGRAM IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SIGNATORIES OF THE ANTARCITC TREATY)."

7. ON JANUARY 28, THE COUNCIL (1) APPROVED THE PROPOSED UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMS FOR COSTA RICA, FIJI, GUATEMALA, MAURITIUS, NEPAL, SINGAPORE, SOLOMON ISLANDS AND TONGA "WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THEIR APPROVED INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURES (IPFS) FOR 1972-1976 AND THEIR IPFS FOR 1977-1981 TO BE APPROVED LATER AND FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAM PERIODS; AND (2) AUTHORIZED THE ADMINISTRATOR "TO PROCEED WITH APPRAISAL AND APPROVAL ACTION ON REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FALLING WITHIN THE OUTLINES OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAM WHILE ENSURING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION (E/5543/REV/1, PARAGRAPH

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31), THAT EXPENDITURES ARE KEPT IN REASONABLE CONFORMITY WITH
THE RELEVANT IPFS AND ARE CONTAINED WITHIN THE FINANCIAL
RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT ANY GIVEN TIME."
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